

FEBRUARY 2.

The President, General ISAAC J. WISTAR, in the chair.

Forty-seven persons present.

A paper entitled "The Development of the Shell in the coiled stage of *Baculites compressus* Say," by Amos P. Brown was presented for publication.

The death of Andrew H. Miller a member, January 29, was announced.

Drexelia, a New Genus of Spiders.—REV. H. C. MCCOOK, D. D. stated that Mr. Cambridge had described, under the name of *Epeira tetragnathoides*, a species of spiders which without doubt is identical with *Epeira directa* of Hentz. The late Count Keyserling in his manuscript notes as edited by Dr. George Marx, applies the name of *Epeira deludens* to the same species, and it is so catalogued, *in litteris*, by Dr. Marx in his Catalogue of North American Araneæ. Specimens in the speaker's collection, which are beyond doubt identical with Hentz's *Epeira directa*, have been carefully compared with specimens in the Marx collection, identified by Keyserling as his *Epeira deludens*, and both, again, with the descriptions of *E. tetragnathoides* by Cambridge in "Biologia Centrali Americana."

Not only is the specific name of Hentz thus restored, but it becomes necessary to make this species the type of a new genus, which Dr. McCook had named *Drexelia*, in recognition of the noble contribution to scientific and industrial education made by our fellow townsman, Mr. Anthony J. Drexel. *Drexelia* is separated sharply from *Epeira* by the peculiar elongated shape of the sternum, which is at least twice as long as wide; and further, by the character of the maxillæ, which are longer than wide; and still further by the shape of the abdomen, which is long, narrow, straight, and, especially in the female, somewhat compressed both at the base and the apex. The legs, too, are less stout than those of the typical *Epeira*. In the form of the maxillæ *Drexelia* approaches both *Nephila* and *Meta*, but differs from both and in a more marked degree from *Epeira*, in relatively greater length of the sternum. It differs also from these genera in the form of the abdomen, that of *Nephila* being long as in *Drexelia*, but sub-cylindrical in form; that of *Meta* being a rounded oval, approaching thus the typical *Epeira*. In the shape of the abdomen *Drexelia* somewhat resembles *Tetragnatha*, a fact which doubtless suggested the name given by Cambridge. It also approaches this genus in the rather slight and feebly armed character of the legs; but the mouth parts and sternum, to say nothing of other characteristics, widely divide these two genera. *Drexelia* approaches *Epeira* in the contour of the face and head,